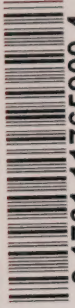


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Canadian
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Centre



Centre
canadien des
armes à feu

How the Law Applies to Me If ...

I AM AN ADULT TARGET SHOOTER

The *Firearms Act* brings about changes that will affect firearms owners and users.

This fact sheet is of interest to you if:

- you are 18 years of age or older, and
- you use firearms for target shooting.

FIREARMS LICENCES

Licensing of firearms owners and users began on December 1, 1998.

If you have a Firearms Acquisition Certificate, you may continue to use it until it expires. You will then need a firearms licence.

Your firearms licence will identify which type or types of firearms you are permitted to have and/or acquire:

- non-restricted (rifles and shotguns),
- restricted (primarily handguns),
- prohibited (full automatic and converted full automatic firearms, some handguns, and long guns prohibited by Order in Council).

Two types of licences are available for persons who are 18 years of age or older:

- a "possession-only" licence, and
- a "possession and acquisition" licence.

Possession-Only Licence (Form JUS 669)

If you already have firearms and don't plan to get any more, you may apply for a possession-only licence. This licence authorizes possession of the firearms that you already own and will allow you to borrow similar firearms.

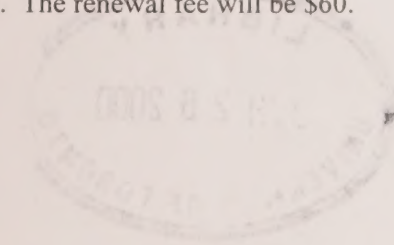
You must apply for this type of firearms licence before January 1, 2001. After that date, if you are applying for a firearms licence for the first time, only the possession and acquisition licence will be available.

There is no safety course requirement to get a possession-only licence.

A five-year possession-only licence costs:

- \$10 if you apply between December 1, 1998 and November 30, 1999;
- \$45 if you apply between December 1, 1999 and August 31, 2000; and
- \$60 if you apply on or after September 1, 2000.

A possession-only licence must be renewed every five years. The renewal fee will be \$60.



Possession and Acquisition Licence (Form JUS 670)

If you plan to acquire (buy, inherit, receive as a gift or take in trade) firearms, you must obtain a possession and acquisition licence.

There is a safety course requirement to get a possession and acquisition licence (see below).

A five-year possession and acquisition licence costs either \$60 (for non-restricted firearms only) or \$80 (if you also have restricted and/or prohibited firearms).

Like the possession-only licence, a possession and acquisition licence must also be renewed every five years.

CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE (CFSC)

Before you can get a possession and acquisition licence, you will have to pass the test for the Canadian Firearms Safety Course, **unless**:

1. you have already passed the test, or
2. you have passed a firearms safety course that has been designated as equivalent by the Attorney General of Manitoba or Quebec, or
3. the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) of your province or territory alternately certifies you (this happens only when the CFO is satisfied that your knowledge of firearms laws and safe handling practices meets the criteria and circumstances prescribed by the licensing regulations.)

Changes to the CFSC

The Canadian Firearms Safety Course has been split into two courses. One course deals with non-restricted firearms safety; the other focuses on restricted firearms safety.

If you passed the previous Canadian Firearms Safety Course test (covering firearms safety for both non-restricted and restricted firearms), or receive alternate credit for it as set out above, you will not be required to pass the new Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course test to get a possession and acquisition licence for restricted firearms.

Prohibition Orders

If you were, or in the future are, prohibited by court order from possessing firearms, you will have to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and pass the test before applying for a firearms licence. This rule applies even if you took the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and passed the test before your prohibition.

REGISTERING YOUR FIREARMS

The *Firearms Act* requires you to register all of your firearms. You must have either a valid firearms licence or a valid FAC to register your firearms. You can apply to register your firearms at the same time that you apply for your firearms licence.

If you have firearms that are registered with the RCMP now (your restricted and prohibited firearms), you are asked to assist in updating your personal and firearms information. This information will then be transferred to the new registration system. You will get, at no cost, a certificate under the new registration system for each of these firearms.

Registration of long guns began on December 1, 1998. You will have until January 1, 2003 to register all the rifles and shotguns that you had when the law came into effect. Any firearm acquired after December 1, 1998 must be registered as a transfer of ownership (see below).

A registration certificate will be issued for each firearm that you own. It is valid for as long as you own the firearm. If you lend your firearm to another person, you must also lend the registration certificate (unless you lend a non-restricted firearm to a sustenance hunter).

The bulk fee to register all of the non-restricted firearms that you owned on December 1, 1998, provided you register them all at the same time, is:

- \$10 if you register them between December 1, 1998 and November 30, 1999;
- \$14 if you register them between December 1, 1999 and August 31, 2000; and
- \$18 if you register them on or after September 1, 2000.

Registration is a one-time event; you only pay once.

TRANSFERRING FIREARMS

Any time you receive a firearm or you transfer (sell, barter or give) one to another person, the new owner will have to register the firearm in his or her name. At the time of transfer, a transfer authorization number will be issued to the new and previous owners. This number will serve as proof that the transfer has been approved for the previous owner, as well as for the new owner until the new registration certificate arrives in the mail. It will cost \$25 per firearm to register the transfer of ownership into your name.

USING PROHIBITED FIREARMS

Under the *Firearms Act*, you are not permitted to have prohibited firearms of any kind unless you are a "grandfathered" individual.

Grandfathering refers to a law allowing an individual to possess a firearm that was once

non-restricted or restricted, but is now prohibited.

The *Firearms Act* sets out six categories of grandfathered individuals. Of particular interest to target shooters is the newly created category of prohibited firearms consisting of handguns with a barrel length of 105 mm or less, and handguns that fire 25 or 32 calibre ammunition.

So long as you registered, or had applied to register, and were the continuous holder of the registration certificate for one or more of these handguns by February 14, 1995, you will be permitted to continue to use them for the purpose for which you originally obtained them (i.e., in this case, target shooting).

In addition, just as you would for restricted firearms, you will be required to demonstrate, every five years upon the renewal of your firearms licence, that you continue to actively use your prohibited handgun(s) for target shooting.

If you no longer use your prohibited handguns for your stated purpose, you will have to sell, give away, dispose of, or deactivate them. Once prohibited firearms are deactivated in accordance with national standards, they are no longer subject to the licensing and registration requirements of the *Firearms Act*.

While the new law bans the future sale and importation of the newly prohibited category of handguns, individuals who meet the requirements set out above will still be able to buy and sell amongst themselves. For more detailed information on owning and transferring prohibited firearms, please see the updated fact sheet: "I Own Grandfathered Prohibited Firearms".

If you are not a grandfathered individual, you may only use prohibited firearms if you are under the **direct and immediate** supervision of

an adult licensed to have prohibited firearms under the *Firearms Act*.

This means that the licensed person must be close enough to you to be able to take any action necessary to prevent you from doing anything with the firearm that is unsafe or against the law.

Special Exemption for Certain Handguns

The *Firearms Act* makes a special exemption for some handguns that would otherwise be prohibited, provided they are prescribed for use in international sporting competitions (e.g. Olympics) governed by the rules of the International Shooting Union. A list of these handguns is included in *Criminal Code* regulations.

TRANSPORTING PROHIBITED FIREARMS

There are special rules for transporting prohibited firearms, for example, if you need to move them to have them appraised, stored, repaired, or for use at a gun show or shooting competition.

To transport a s.12(6) prohibited handgun (having a barrel length of 105 mm or less or that fires 25 or 32 calibre cartridges), you will need an Authorization to Transport under the *Firearms Act*.

To transport a prohibited firearm other than a s.12(6) prohibited handgun, you will need the Chief Firearms Officer's authorization under the *Special Authority to Possess Regulations*.

TRAVELLING OUTSIDE CANADA

The procedures for Canadian residents who take their firearms out of Canada and later bring them back in will change very little until January 1,

2001. The main exception is that you will need to get one of the above authorizations in order to transport your restricted firearms. For more information, contact your provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer.

VISITORS TO CANADA

Beginning January 1, 2001, the *Firearms Act* will bring about changes that will affect non-resident target shooters who:

- borrow and use firearms while they are in Canada, or
- bring firearms into Canada.

Until the new procedures come into effect, non-residents bringing firearms into Canada will be subject to the requirements of the Customs Tariff. More detailed information will be provided before these provisions come into effect.

It is important to note that it is illegal for anyone to bring into Canada firearms that are prohibited in this country.

For general information, call our toll-free number and ask for the fact sheet "I am a Gun User Visiting Canada".

SHOOTING CLUBS AND RANGES

Regulations for the approval of shooting clubs and ranges have now been finalized. Anyone wanting to start or operate a shooting club must first get the approval of the Provincial Minister responsible or the provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer. The club must operate from an approved shooting range, be insured for liability and keep track of its membership and guests. Existing operating approvals are valid until December 1, 1999.

Ranges must also comply with safety standards. Handgun ranges need to be approved as no Authorization to Transport can be issued unless it is to an approved range. However, approval of long gun ranges has been deferred until December 1, 1999.

COMING INTO FORCE

The *Firearms Act* is being phased in from December 1, 1998 to January 1, 2003.

INFORMATION

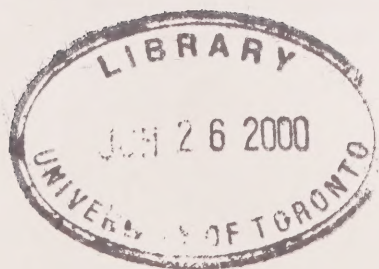
For more information, or to order a copy of the *Firearms Act*, its regulations, application forms and other CFC publications, contact us at:

1 800 731-4000 (Toll Free)
Web site: www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca
e-mail: canadian.firearms@justice.gc.ca

This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. For legal references, please refer to the *Firearms Act* and its regulations.

Provincial, territorial and municipal laws, regulations and policies may also apply.

Le présent feuillet d'information est également disponible en français.





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